

2021 National Suicide Prevention Week Proclamation provided by the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention (ASFP)

In Recognition of the 2021 National Suicide Prevention Week

This Proclamation recognizes suicide as a national and statewide public health problem, and suicide prevention as a national and statewide responsibility, and designates September 5 through September 11 as “National Suicide Prevention Week” in Maryland. This week overlaps World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, recognized internationally and supported by the World Health Organization.

- WHEREAS, suicide remains the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 10 to 34;
- WHEREAS, in the United States over 47,000 people died by suicide in 2019 (Centers for Disease Control);
- WHEREAS, suicide rates have increased 30% over the last two decades, with suicide rates finally decreasing 2.1% between 2018 and 2019;
- WHEREAS, it is estimated that in 2019, there were 1.38 million suicide attempts;
- WHEREAS, in 2019, suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in Maryland (Centers for Disease Control);
- WHEREAS, in 2019, 657 people died by suicide in Maryland (Centers for Disease Control);
- WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, although often that condition is not recognized or treated;
- WHEREAS, organizations such as the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide, through research, education, advocacy and resources for those who have lost someone to suicide or who struggle, and urge that we:

1. Recognize suicide as a preventable national and state public health problem and declare suicide prevention to be a priority.
2. Acknowledge that no single suicide prevention program or effort will be appropriate for all populations or communities.
3. Address the disparity in access to mental healthcare for underrepresented groups, and advocate for ending these disparities.
4. Fund new suicide research to support culturally-informed and evidence-based mental health care and services.
5. Encourage initiatives based on the goals contained in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention and the 2020 Maryland Suicide Prevention Plan.
6. Promote awareness that there is no single cause for suicide, and that suicide most often occurs when stressors exceed the coping abilities of someone struggling with a mental health condition.
7. Develop and implement strategies to improve and increase access to quality mental health, substance abuse, and suicide prevention services and programs.

Therefore, be it resolved that, I, [NAME of County Official], of [County], do hereby designate September 5 - 11, 2021 as “National Suicide Prevention Week” in Maryland.